

October 30, 1888

Hon. John H. Oberly

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir:

I have the honor to state that it was, and is, the intention of this bureau in establishing St. Joseph's Normal School, Rensselaer, Ind., to place in it Indian boys who had the benefit of tuition at the Reservation schools and who evinced a desire for a higher order of education than could be obtained at such schools, and to fit such of them as showed an aptitude therefore to become teachers among their people and skilled mechanics.

It was found impossible to obtain 50 boys (the number for which the Bureau's contract provides may be educated at this school) of this character between the ages of six and eighteen years at the different agencies visited by myself and the Bureau's Agents for the purpose of collecting pupils, and therefore it became necessary in order to fill the complement of the school to take a number of boys who were over the maximum age named. This was done and the boys placed in the school without first consulting because of lack of time to do so, and for the reason that I felt confident that upon presentation of the reasons which moved me to this action, you would permit the Bureau to retain these boys in the school. This you may do by virtue of Section 2, Article 1, of the contract which provides "that, except by special permission of the Indian Bureau, no pupils can be received into said school who are under six or over eighteen years of age."

The names and ages of the pupils above referred to are as follows:

Charles Chickemy	18 years of age
Louis Marion	18 " " "
Ignatius Courts	21 " " "
Augustus Green	18 " " "
Felix	19 " " "
Alfred Marvu	20 " " "
Archie McArthur	18 " " "
Eusebe Bellefeuille	19 " " "

Ben. Caswell	20	"	"	"
Chas. Morrison	20	"	"	"
Chas. Fairbanks	20	"	"	"
Chas. Afraid of Howling	25	"	"	"

I would respectfully ask that you will, under the discretion lodged in you by the contract above quoted, grant "special permission" for the support and education by this Bureau of the boys named at St. Joseph's Normal School, Rensselaer, Ind., under the contract dated June 30, 1888.

Very Respectfully,

J. A. Stephan

Director